



Agenda Date: 8/06/03
Agenda Item: IV A7

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities
Two Gateway Center
Newark, NJ 07102
www.bpu.state.nj.us

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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| IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT APPLICATION OF |) | <u>ORDER APPROVING</u> |
| VERIZON NEW JERSEY INC. AND NETWORK |) | <u>INTERCONNECTION</u> |
| SERVICES, LLC FOR APPROVAL OF AN ADOPTION |) | <u>AGREEMENT</u> |
| OF AN INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT UNDER |) | |
| SECTION 252 OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS |) | |
| ACT OF 1996 |) | DOCKET NO. TO01100663 |

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

BY THE BOARD:

By letter dated October 17, 2001, Verizon New Jersey Inc. (Verizon), and Network Services, LLC (Network Services), (individually, a Party, and jointly, the Parties), pursuant to Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, P.L. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56, (codified in scattered sections of 47 U.S.C. §151 et seq.) (the Act), submitted to the Board of Public Utilities (Board) a joint application (Application) for approval of a certain negotiated interconnection agreement dated December 1, 1998 (Agreement).

Network Services has exercised its rights under Section 252(i) of the Act to opt into an interconnection agreement previously approved by the Board between Verizon and Paging Network of New Jersey, Inc. BPU Docket No. TO98121416 (August 18, 1999).

The Agreement sets forth the terms, conditions and prices under which Verizon will offer and provide access to unbundled network elements, ancillary services, and wholesale telecommunications services available for resale to Network Services. The Agreement was in effect until December 1, 2000, and thereafter the Agreement shall continue in full force and effect unless terminated as provided in the Agreement.

By letter dated February 7, 2002, the Division of the Ratepayer Advocate filed comments on the Agreement. In summary, the Advocate stated that it is satisfied that the Agreement does not discriminate against other carriers and is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity, and therefore recommended that the Board approve the Agreement.

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §252(a)(1), an incumbent LEC may negotiate and enter into a binding interconnection agreement with a carrier requesting interconnection, service or network elements. In addition, 47 U.S.C. §252(e)(1) requires approval by the Board of any

interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation or arbitration, and further requires the Board to approve or reject the Agreement, with written findings as to any deficiencies. The Act provides that the Board may reject a negotiated agreement only if it finds that: (i) the agreement (or portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement; or (ii) the implementation of such agreement or portion is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. [47 U.S.C. §252(e)(2)(A)].

The Board's review of the Agreement and the record in this matter indicates that the Agreement is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity, and that the Agreement does not discriminate against telecommunications carriers not parties to the Agreement. Therefore, the Board FINDS that the Agreement meets the standards set forth in the Act, and HEREBY APPROVES the Agreement as presented by the Parties. This approval should not be construed as preapproval of any future petitions for rate recovery of costs incurred pursuant to the Agreement, nor shall the Board be bound by provisions within the Agreement regarding the confidentiality of information.

The Board notes that amendments or modifications to Board approved interconnection agreements are subject to Board review and approval. No agreement shall be read, nor does the Board believe the Parties to the Agreement intend that it be read, to limit the authority of the Board under Section 252(e) of the Act to review interconnection agreements. Accordingly, until and unless otherwise provided by the Board, subsequent amendments or modifications to the Agreement approved herein shall be subject to review and approval by the Board.

DATED: 8/07/03

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:

signed
JEANNE M. FOX
PRESIDENT

signed
FREDERICK F. BUTLER
COMMISSIONER

signed
CAROL J. MURPHY
COMMISSIONER

signed
CONNIE O. HUGHES
COMMISSIONER

signed
JACK ALTER
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

signed
KRISTI IZZO
SECRETARY